

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Schwarzenegger to Send Aid to Counties Affected by the Recent Freeze

SACRAMENTO - Governor Schwarzenegger today authorized emergency food assistance grants to six counties affected by the recent freeze. The \$25,000 grants for food will provide immediate short-term relief and will be delivered tomorrow to food banks in the counties with the greatest need.

"These grants will help families affected by the freeze and will provide immediate relief," said Cliff Allenby, director of the California Department of Social Services (DSS). "We will continue to work with local food banks on long-term strategies to ensure people continue to get the assistance they need."

At the direction of the Governor, and as part of ongoing state efforts, officials today assessed critical local food bank needs. As a result, Community Food Bank in Fresno County, Community Action Partnership of Kern County, Foodlink for Tulare County, Merced County Food Bank, Inc, Kings County Community Action Organization and Food Share, Inc. of Ventura County will each receive a \$25,000 grant.

DSS has maintained regular contact with local food banks around the state since the onset of the cold temperatures to assess Emergency Food Assistance Program needs. Emergency food shipments were provided to Tulare County on January 22 and Ventura County yesterday. Additional food shipments will be delivered to Fresno tomorrow and Madera County on Thursday.